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# THE MORNING NEWS

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A Chinese couple walk past Christmas decorated trees on display in Beijing, China. Mathematics has provided an answer for those striving for the perfect Christmas tree, Britain's University of Sheffield says after being set the challenge of decorating a tree so that greenery and glitz are in harmonious proportion. Their formula states a 180cm (six-feet) Christmas tree would need 37 baubles, around 919 cms of tinsel (30 feet) and 565 cms (19 feet) of lights, and an 18cm (seven-inch) star or angel to achieve the perfect look. (AFP)



## Tourism corridor gets Police Force's full attention!

ORANJESTAD -- The government recently met with the Police Force and was pleased to note the attention that the force is giving to the prevention of crimes in our tourism corridor. Actions are ongoing and new equipment arriving to continue with the protection of our community and particularly of our visitors.

They are also pleased that they can count on the support of the tourism industry, particularly from the funds available in the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF).

The crime incidents are isolated incidents, yet we are extremely vigilant and intent on curbing every potential for an incident...and for us every incident is one too many. The

tourism office attends to victims in the most positive manner possible. Despite every incident, Aruba remains one of the safest countries in the world compared to other countries in the region or beyond. The government has vowed that there will be no limitation in their budget to fight against crimes and to maintain top security on Aruba.

The government reports being on the right track and that there will be more instruments employed to help in the fight against crime and for preventive means.



Otmar Oduber

## US doctors defeat leukemia with modified HIV

NEW YORK (AFP) - US doctors say they have saved a seven-year-old girl who was close to dying from leukemia by pioneering the use of an unlikely ally: a modified form of the HIV virus.

After fighting her disease with chemotherapy for almost two years and suffering two relapses, the young girl "faced grim prospects," doctors at Children's Hospital of Phila-

delphia said.

So in February this year they agreed to take her on in an experimental program that fought fire with fire.

Helped by a genetically altered HIV virus -- stripped of its devastating properties that cause AIDS -- doctors turned the girl's own immune cells into a superior force able to rout the "aggressive" leukemia.

Emily Whitehead was the first child and is one of only a handful of people in total to be

given what's officially known as CTL019 therapy. The hospital stressed this could not yet be called "a magic bullet."

However in her case at least the success was dramatic.

During the treatment, Emily became very ill and went into the intensive care unit, underlining how risky the procedure can be. However, drugs that partly block the immune reaction were administered, without interfering with the anti-leukemia action, and she recovered, the hospital said.



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## A new car for big winner Chris Farrell at Seaport Casino is a bittersweet story

It is always exciting for Renaissance Casino personnel when one of their players hits the "Mystery Jackpot" on a special bank of penny machines, presenting them with a brand new car. They have banks of special slots at both their Seaport and Crystal Casino, and each offers a different new car as a prize.

On Sunday evening, December 9, Chris Farrell of Washington State hit that giant jackpot after investing only \$1.89, purely on a whim, while killing some time during the bingo intermission. This was her lucky day, without a doubt, as she had just won \$420 in bingo; these were two very nice surprises for her that she felt was meant to be, as this visit to Aruba, one of the places she loves best on earth, was very poignant and a bit sad to that point.

Chris and her husband Dan have been coming to Aruba since 1999, when they completely fell in love with the island. It was their first Caribbean trip and they were just retiring, so they purchased four weeks of timesharing at the Renaissance Beach Suites, as they found the ambiance of Oranjestad was more to their taste. They so enjoyed being part of the authentic Aruban scene, they even took Spanish



**Chris and Dan Farrell on Aruba**



**Chris Farrell won a new car**

Immersion Courses so they could converse more readily with native islanders. They loved taking long, long walks

together, exploring the town's byways and sights.

In April of this year, Chris lost Dan to cancer. Since their first visit to Aruba, they had taken many cruises and explored several islands, but agreed: no place compared to it in any way. When Dan was sick and knew he was dying, he urged Chris to keep coming down to enjoy their time here, as he felt secure that she would be safe here, even as a woman traveling alone.

Chris returned to enjoy their usual time on the island, accompanied by her friends

Sunday	<b>Balloon Raffle \$500,-</b>	Slot Tournament \$1000
Monday	<b>Balloon Raffle \$500,-</b>	Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day
Tuesday	<b>Balloon Raffle \$500,-</b>	Black Jack Tournament \$500
<b>Wednesday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT</b>		
Thursday	<b>Cash Raffle Awg 10.000,-</b>	
Friday	<b>Balloon Raffle \$500,-</b>	Black Jack Tournament \$500 28th \$1000
Saturday	<b>Balloon Raffle \$500,-</b>	Earn Triple POINTS all day 10 am-6 pm



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Mike Kelly and Terri Thurston, as she did not quite feel ready to brave traveling on her own. She also came to honor Dan's dying wish, that his ashes be spread in the sea around the place he loved best on earth. "This is where I felt at home," Dan had told Chris, "I want my ashes in the beautiful waters of Aruba."

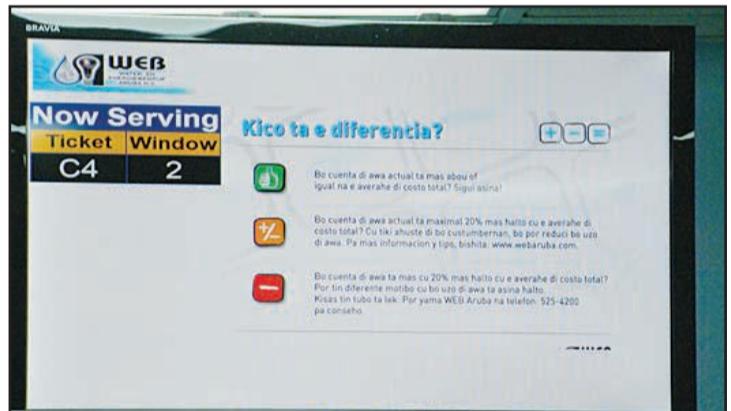
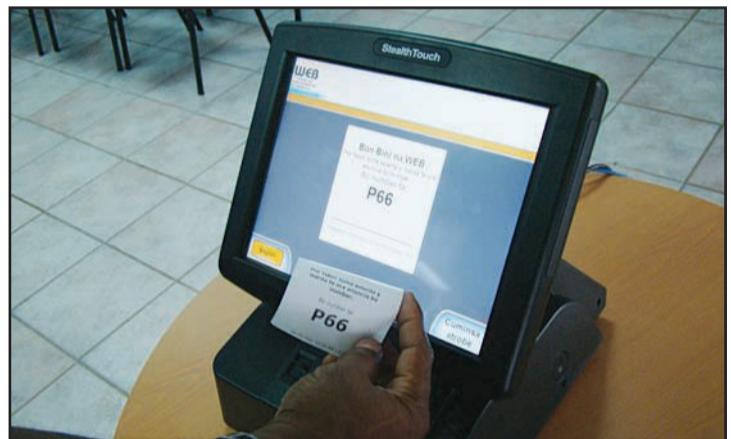
After several inquiries, she found Captain Dennis of the "Lady Sarah" who readily agreed to take her and a party of dear "extended Aruba family" out to sea to scatter Dan's ashes. He also procured flower petals for them to toss along as they laid Dan to his final rest.

**Continued on page 5**

**Across from Radisson Resort**  
**Behind the "I ❤ Aruba sign"**



**WEB Aruba N.V. introduces**  
**Q-Flow system to improve**  
**client service**



ORANJESTAD – Recently, WATER- EN ENERGIEBEDRIJF ARUBA (W.E.B.) N.V., the island's energy provider and water plant, introduced the Q-Flow system, an Electronic Content Management (ECM) systems integrator at their various offices and pay stations. Q-Flow provides out-of-the-box or custom content management, imaging and workflow applications that improve business operations and eliminate the handling, processing and storage of paper documents.

Clients select the required transaction on a touch screen and the machine will provide a ticket with a letter and number. This system enables WEB to give clients the necessary service according to their needs. The Q-Flow system is already known at other utility companies, banks, hospital



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# Wednesday

## Ladies Night

### Balloon Raffle \$500

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Live Band 9 pm - 1 am  
CLIMAX

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## APA sets the record straight regarding crane and cargo incident



ORANJESTAD -- APA is intent on clarifying the incorrect information which began circulating in the local press re-

garding a matter which occurred and which was duly handled by APA. The facts are: while their Gantry crane was out of service for repairs as a result of an incident which occurred, their mobile crane unfortunately suffered a brake-down and they were forced to work with the ships' cranes in order to unload cargo. This happened for no more than three days. All cargo unloading continued uninterrupted, which means there was absolutely no loss of income because of the interruption of service.

They had to look for a part for the mobile crane. The part that broke is not a fast moving part which APA would not normally have in stock. Upon the advice of the manufacturer and of other similar wharfs with an identical crane as that of Aruba, APA maintains an extensive list of parts in Aruba. All other parts are in stock at the manufacturer in Miami.

There was no question about making new investments, because they already have a large investment in parts and in their local stock.

With respect to Gantry, they were never required to make any investment in cables. An incident took place where a chain snapped under the weight of a heavy piece of cargo, which is what put this crane out of operation. At the moment, both cranes are in full operation, while the mobile crane has been returned to service as of the 28th of November.

*Continued on page 4*

## Change in oil product prices

ORANJESTAD -- The Ministry of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs announces to the general public that as of today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, there will be changes in different oil product prices.



- The new price for unleaded-premium gas will be 220.2 cent per liter, a decrease of 12.8 cent.

- The new price for diesel LS will be 207.6 cent per liter, a decrease of 8.1

cent.

- The new price for kerosin will be 200.2 cent per liter, a decrease of 6.9 cent.

In the new prices the BBO is already included.

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## APA sets the record straight . . .

Continued from page 3

During this very busy time, all cargo is being unloaded by Gantry. These are the facts, and APA regrets the submission of erroneous information.

APA is always ready to sit down with anyone to clarify

all information with whichever instance or media.

The mobile crane bears the mark "Liebherr" and is recognized as one of the top brands in the world at some of the biggest ports. APA's technical

team is analyzing the cause of the sudden breakdown. They are engaged in a "Root Cause Analysis." Finding the cause will enable them to prevent any future repeat of the problem.

M A S H A D A N K I !



We would like to thank the community and express our gratitude to the men and women behind the foundations, especially the models for their support and inspiring participation in making our official opening an event to remember!

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## Elvis Gomez wins Shoco award "Supervisor of The Year"



Elvis Gomez together with the Minister of Tourism & Transport Otmar Oduber

On Sunday December 9, 2012 the annual SHOCO awards were handed out to the 2012 nominees at the Renaissance Convention Center. Aruba Marriott's Elvis Gomez was awarded with the Shoco award "Supervisor of the year," one of the most prestigious professional awards in Aruba.

The Shoco Award plays an important role on rewarding and promoting excellence which is the cornerstone for economic development in Aruba. Recognizing excellence and sharing successes enhances performance and boosts productivity in the local labor market.

Gomez's nomination for the SHOCO award was submitted by the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, as he was honored "Associate of the Year 2011" at the Aruba Marriott for his outstanding job in the Accounting Department. He was promoted to Storeroom Supervisor in the beginning of 2012,



Elvis Gomez with Marriott's Dir. of Finance Pamela Heim

his current position at the resort.

Accompanied by his colleagues and family, Gomez received the Shoco award from Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority at the Gala Award event. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino proudly congratulates Elvis Gomez with this award.

Masha Pabien Elvis!

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## A new car for big winner Chris Farrell...

*Continued from page 2*



**Scattering Dan's ashes at sea**

Blaine and Fay Boorgard from Alberta Canada and Carolyn and Walt Kirkby, all dear friends they had met at their timeshare, joined Chris, Mike and Terri for the voyage, where they all read some passages from Scripture. "Most boat crews were hesitant when I asked if I could arrange a short trip, but Captain Dennis was wonderful and understanding. It seems he had done this before, I was becoming discouraged, but he changed that in an instant."

Chris explained that a portion of Dan's ashes are still sealed. She has specified to her children that when she

dies, her ashes are to be mixed with his and together they will be scattered on Aruba's waters.



**Christ with Captain Dennis, Mike Kelly and Terri Thurston**

Two days after this poignant voyage, Chris was amazed when alarm bells and flashing lights went off after spending ten minutes killing some time in the casino. The machine revealed nothing of being a winner, so she thought it was someone else, until excited casino staff surrounded her telling her she had just won a new Toyota.

Since she really doesn't need a new car, the dealership, Garage Cordia, graciously agreed to sell the car for her and send her a check, likely within six weeks or so. "I tell you, this will come in very handy right now, I am still dealing with many expenses from Dan's passing," she affirms. "The car people were the most efficient and helpful I have ever encountered, they could not have been nicer."

"What a time in Aruba that has been for me this year," she observes. "One of our friends told me "Dan is still looking out for you and sending a present from his favorite place," and I have to believe that is so. Aruba will always be special for me, and the memories of the time I spent here with Dan, but now even more so."

**Rosalie Klein**

## The Dutch Marine Corps is not going anywhere!



ORANJESTAD -- The Dutch Marine Corps situated in Savaneta at the Marine Station is in absolutely no danger of leaving Aruba. The Prime Minister of Aruba made this positive affirmation this week after his visit with new Dutch Defense Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert.

During his meeting with the new Dutch Defense Minister, Eman emphasized the important roles of the Dutch Marines on Aruba. Their role goes beyond the matter of defense. They also play a role in the Social Formation of our youth, as well as they assist

in times of calamities. And, we also do military exercises together.

Eman was pleased to announce that the new Minister indicated with firmness that the Marine Corps will remain intact here on Aruba.

Eman proudly recounted the success of the Social Formation program undertaken with the full support of the Dutch Marines.

The New Dutch Minister of Defense indicated that she looks forward to coming to Aruba and to inspecting this program.

# Special Holiday Menus



## Special Lunch Menu

**Appetizer**  
Empanada Argentina  
Or  
Caesar Salad

**Entrée**  
Skirt Steak  
Or  
Seafood Skewer,

**Dessert**  
Sorbet  
Or  
Flan

**\$25.00**  
plus 15 % s.c & tx

From 11:30 till 5:30pm daily,  
Sundays from 11:30 till 7:00pm

## The Christmas Menu

**Appetizer**  
Empanada Argentina  
Or  
Cream of Broccoli Soup  
Or  
Ajaca Navidenja

**Entrée**  
Fresh fillet of Grouper  
Pan fried and served with garlic & herb butter sauce  
Or  
Grilled Skirt Steak

**Dessert**  
Sweet Sampler  
A combination of Mini Flan, Crepe with Dulce de Leche and Chocolate Brownie

Fresh Brewed Coffee or assorted Tea

**\$33.00**  
plus 15 % s.c & tx

## The Noel Menu

**Appetizer**  
Chorizo & Morcilla  
Or  
Cream of Pumpkin Soup  
Or  
Ajaca Navidenja

**Entrée**  
Seafood Trio  
A combination platter of Fish Fillet, Garlic Shrimp & Stewed Squid Buenos Aires  
Or  
Premium cut, 8 oz Tenderloin Steak

**Dessert**  
Sweet Sampler  
A combination of Mini Flan, Crepe with Dulce de Leche and Chocolate Brownie

Fresh Brewed Coffee or assorted Tea

**\$35.00**  
plus 15 % s.c & tx

## Santa's Menu

**Appetizer**  
Conch Harbor Style  
Or  
Chilled Shrimp Cocktail  
Or  
Ajaca Navidenja

**Entrée**  
Surf & Turf  
8 oz Tenderloin Steak  
with 2 Jumbo Garlic Shrimp  
Or  
Parrilla Argentina  
A combination of five different cuts of beef

**Dessert**  
Sweet Sampler  
A combination of Mini Flan, Crepe with Dulce de Leche and Chocolate Brownie

Fresh Brewed Coffee or assorted Tea

**\$38.00**  
plus 15 % s.c & tx

## The Star Bright Menu

**Appetizer**  
The classic Caesar Salad  
Or  
Sautéed Jumbo Garlic Shrimp  
Or  
Ajaca Navidenja

**Entrée**  
Grilled Veal Chop  
marinated in chimichurri herbs  
Or  
Fillet of Norwegian Salmon,  
with homemade herb & lemon butter  
Or  
Our world famous Gaucho Steak

**Dessert**  
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Fresh Brewed Coffee or assorted Tea

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Cayman Islands premier arrested in graft probe

GRAND CAYMAN (AFP) - Police in the Caribbean tax haven of the Cayman Islands arrested Prime Minister McKeava Bush yesterday on charges he had misused a government credit card and illegally imported explosives.

The Cayman chain -- Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman -- are an international financial center and a British overseas territory with 57,000 citizens, an elected assembly and a governor appointed by London.

The Royal Caymans Police Service said Bush, 57, was arrested at his home in Bay West at 7:00 am and is "currently detained in police custody in connection with a number of ongoing investigations."

Bush is being held on suspicion of alleged misuse of a government credit card and of abuse of office "in connection with the alleged importation of explosive substances without valid permits on or before February 2012."

Governor Duncan Taylor, appointed by Queen Elizabeth

to represent the British government on the islands, confirmed he had been made aware of the arrest and said the case was a matter for the islands' police commissioner.

"I expect him to carry out a robust, fair and comprehensive investigation, regardless of the individual concerned," he added in a statement.

Bush is leader of the United Democratic Party and has been active in island politics since the 1980s. He was elected prime minister in 2009.

Assembly members from the ruling UDP issued a brief statement saying that they learned about the arrest along with everyone else and would make no comment on what was an ongoing police investigation.

"We the government fully understand the gravity of this matter. We confirm that caucus is presently convened, and further statements will be issued in due course," they said, in a note signed by an eight-member caucus.

### Software pioneer McAfee expects to be freed 'soon'

LONDON (AFP) - US anti-virus software pioneer John McAfee said yesterday he was "100 percent certain" he would secure freedom from a Guatemalan detention centre within 24 hours.

The 67-year-old, who was arrested for making an illegal entry into the Central American country on December 5, told Sky News that he expects

### El Salvador accepts responsibility for 1981 massacre

SAN SALVADOR (AFP) - El Salvador yesterday accepted responsibility for the 1981 massacre of more than 1,000 people in the village of El Mozote in the course of a counter-insurgency sweep.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights on Monday handed down a ruling that declared the Salvadoran state responsible for "violating the right to life, personal integrity and private property" in the Mozote case.

The Salvadoran foreign ministry issued a statement yesterday saying the government "recognizes said sen-

to be leaving for the United States "soon".

McAfee's request last week for asylum was denied because he entered Guatemala illegally while fleeing Belizean police.

Authorities in Belize want to question him about the death of 52-year-old Florida expatriate Gregory Faull, who was found by his housekeeper with a 9-mm bullet in his head, lying

tence, as well as state responsibility in this case."

It said the victims and their families had the right to "moral and economic reparations."

in a pool of his own blood.

When asked what the chances were of being sent to the US and avoiding extradition to Belize, McAfee replied: "100 percent, I think later today there will be more information about that."

McAfee, 67, insists he had nothing to do with the killing on the palm-fringed island of Ambergris Caye, where both men lived, and told Sky News he left "for his own safety".

"I cannot ever return to Belize," he added. "There is no hope for my life if I am ever returned to Belize".

Belize Prime Minister Dean Barrow has called McAfee "extremely paranoid, even bonkers".

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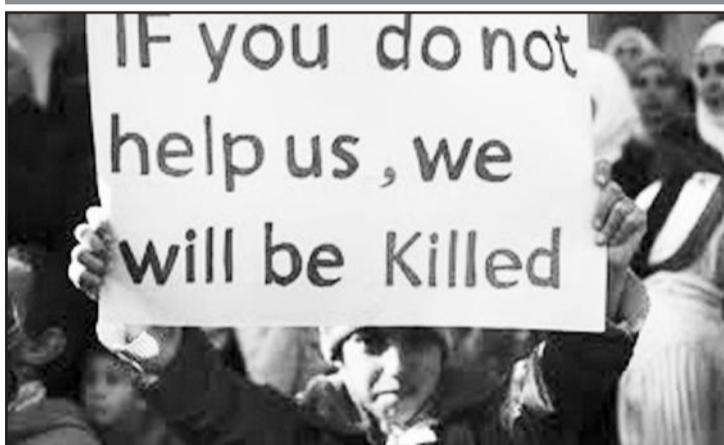
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## International News

### International military chiefs hold talks on Syrian situation



LONDON (AFP) - International military chiefs met in London to discuss the Syria conflict, a diplomatic source said Tuesday, after a report that they discussed plans to train rebels and give air and naval support.

General David Richards, the head of Britain's armed forces, held talks recently in London with military leaders from France, Turkey, Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and a US general, the Independent newspaper reported.

A British diplomatic source confirmed that the military leaders had held talks, but played down the idea that they discussed military intervention against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The Independent however said that during the meeting, which was organised at the request of Prime Minister David Cameron, the military chiefs held detailed strategic discussions about how to help the Syrian rebels.

Britain, France and the United States have pledged not to put "boots on the ground" to help the rebels, meaning Turkey would most likely host the training camps, the Independent said.

Britain's Ministry of Defence would not confirm the report and repeated its commitment to finding a diplomatic end to the conflict.

But the meeting reflects the growing international momentum towards ending the conflict in Syria.

Cameron held talks in London on Tuesday with Jordan's King Abdullah II during which they discussed the situation in Syria.

His Downing Street office said they "agreed on the need for international action to end the conflict through a political transition" and to respond to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria.

They also agreed on the need to support Syria's new national opposition coalition "as they continue to establish themselves as a credible, democratic and inclusive alternative to the Assad regime."

Talk of arming the rebels has increased in recent weeks since the establishment of the coalition, with Britain saying last week it would press its European partners in March to amend the arms embargo on Syria to allow them to provide weapons to the opposition.

## UN emergency fund makes record payments

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations' emergency humanitarian fund paid out a record \$465 million in 2012 as the Syria conflict drained international relief cash, officials said Tuesday.

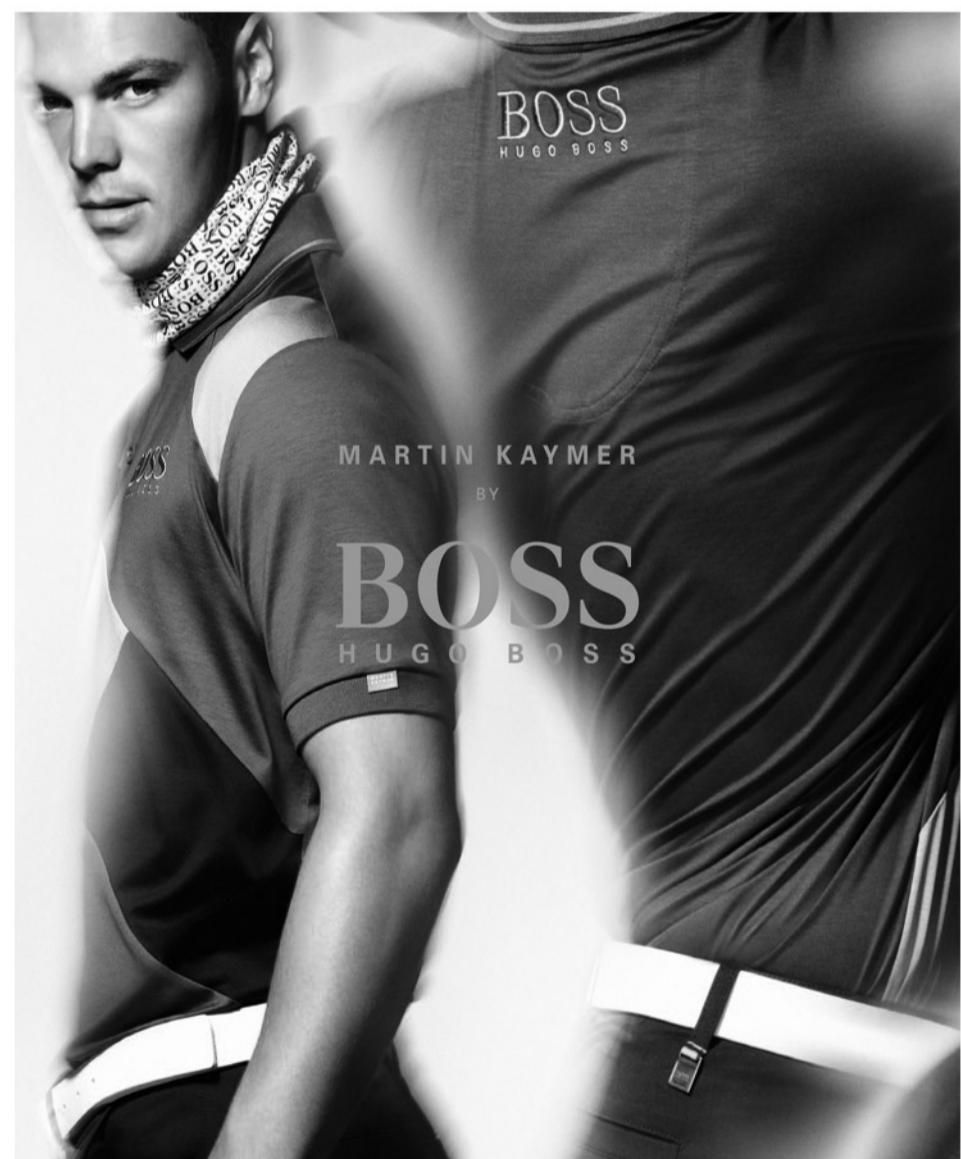
Top donors, led by Britain and Scandinavian nations, have

called on more countries to help keep alive the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, which has had to bolster emergency operations in Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Sahel region.

UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said "this \$465 mil-

lion is the highest amount we have ever allocated in a calendar year."

The United States will next year give \$4 million to the fund, but stresses that it gives most of its aid direct to UN agencies. China gave \$500,000 to the fund in 2012.



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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

## Health & Living

### Keeping the Romance and Passion Alive in a Long-Term Relationship



-- These days, more and more couples are seeking premarital counseling and taking steps to safeguard their marriage

Baggage from past relationships or the heat of illicit sex can kill a marriage. Anger, job dissatisfaction, anxiety, poor self esteem, and even the blessing of all blessings – a new baby – may erode relationships.

True, the flash of passion, so attractive in new romances, doesn't last. People grow complacent. Life interferes. Children require attention. You can't sustain fever pitch passion forever... but danger lurks if you overlook your partner's needs and wants. Battle weeds later, or be proactive, encouraging love to bloom. *Try these tips:*

1. Listen reflectively, offering comments and encouragement in conversation. Truly connect.

2. Hold hands. Offer physical warmth when natural opportunities arise. Beguile your partner.
3. Commit to weekly date nights, no matter what. This is a key to marital health.
4. Get expert advice. Look for a couples retreat, military couples have them all the time. Put your heart and soul into it.
5. Revisit what first drew you to your spouse – remember how to treasure those things.
6. Laugh with each other, out loud and often.
7. Cut him some slack, let irritations go by; overlook transgressions.

And don't be afraid of hugs and kisses. People often worry that their partner might assume that a hug means 'I want sex'. But if you agree that a hug is just a hug, you can enjoy non-sexual physical contact simply for what it is.



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### Indonesia says it has found more virulent bird flu strain

JAKARTA (AFP) - Indonesia has identified the bird flu virus that killed hundreds of thousands of ducks in recent weeks as a more virulent type which is new to the country, according to a letter seen Tuesday.

"We found a highly pathogenic avian influenza sub-type H5N1 (virus) with clade 2.3..." the agriculture ministry's veterinary chief Syukur Iwantoro said in the letter obtained by AFP. "This clade is a new clade found for the first time in Indonesia, that is very different to the avian influenza found before, which is clade 2.1."

A clade is a group of organisms, usually species, with a common ancestor.

A poultry breeders' association had reported the death of more than 300,000 ducks in

several provinces on Java island since November to the ministry.

The veterinary office found the H5N1 virus involved was a different clade to that usually found in Indonesia, said Iwantoro's letter to local government offices and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Iwantoro called for further research into whether there had been a genetic shift in the virus previously found in the country, or whether the new strain originated overseas.

"There is a suspicion that the virus has spread from other countries, possibly from Vietnam or Thailand," Emil Agustiono, secretary of the national commission of zoonosis control that oversees bird flu, told AFP.

Health officials have told

local governments to stop and check motorbikes and pick-up trucks commonly used to transport poultry, to try to reduce the spread of the virus.

The health ministry has told local offices to be vigilant for more massive poultry deaths, or for deaths of people in the vicinity, its head of communicable disease Tjandra Yoga Aditama told AFP.

Bird flu typically spreads from birds to humans through direct contact, but experts fear it could mutate into a form that is easily transmissible between humans.

Indonesia has suffered the world's worst human fatalities from bird flu with 159 deaths since 2003 out of 359 worldwide, according to the WHO.

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## Sci-Tech

### Brief Facebook outage after infrastructure change



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Facebook was unreachable briefly on Monday after the social network made a change to part of its infrastructure dealing with routing traffic to its online address.

"Earlier today, we made a change to our DNS infrastructure and that change resulted in some people being temporarily unable to reach the site," Facebook said in response to an AFP inquiry.

"We detected and resolved the issue quickly, and we are now back to 100 percent. We apologize for any inconven-

ience."

DNS refers to the Domain Name System that involves directing traffic to websites.

"Facebook isn't working; clearly the start of the end of the world," a Twitter user going by the name Jamie Chapman said in post at the one-to-many messaging service.

Earlier Monday, Gmail service was beset by disruptions that prompted users to flock to Twitter to express dismay and seek information about the Web-based email service run by Google.

An online "dashboard" that provides real-time updates regarding the status of Google services showed disruptions to both Gmail and Google Drive, which lets people store data on servers in the Internet "cloud."

The problems were solved by mid-day, according to a Google status update.

### Heavy Winter in Europe and Asia



YAMANOUCHI (AFP) : Japanese macaque, commonly referred to as "snow monkeys", take an open-air hot spring bath, or "onsen" at the Jigokudani (Hell's Valley) Monkey Park in the town of Yamanouchi, Nagano prefecture on December 10, 2012. Some 160 of the monkeys inhabit the area and are a popular tourist draw.

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### US probes mobile apps for data collection on kids

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US regulators have launched a series of probes on whether mobile apps targeted at children violate privacy laws by collecting and sharing data which can be used for detailed profiles, officials said Monday.

The Federal Trade Commission said its latest review of mobile apps available on Apple's App Store and Google Play found that many collect personal data, and often share this with developers or marketers without disclosing this fact to parents.

An FTC statement said the agency "is launching non-public investigations to determine

whether certain entities in the mobile app marketplace are violating the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act or engaging in unfair or deceptive practices in violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act."

Jessica Rich, the FTC's deputy enforcement chief, declined to provide details on the apps which might be targeted, but said that "if they violated the laws, we would bring an enforcement action."

She said the agency was not identifying specific apps but hopes the developers and marketplaces can step up privacy protections.

Rich said most apps studied by the FTC "made no privacy disclosures at all" and that those which did so "failed to make available the critical information that parents need."

Of particular concern, she said, was that apps were collecting and sharing data which could allow personal identification of children using mobile device, track their location or provide the phone numbers to marketers.

"Parents may not want their kids to be served ads and they definitely don't want their kids to be served personalized ads based on profiles," she said.

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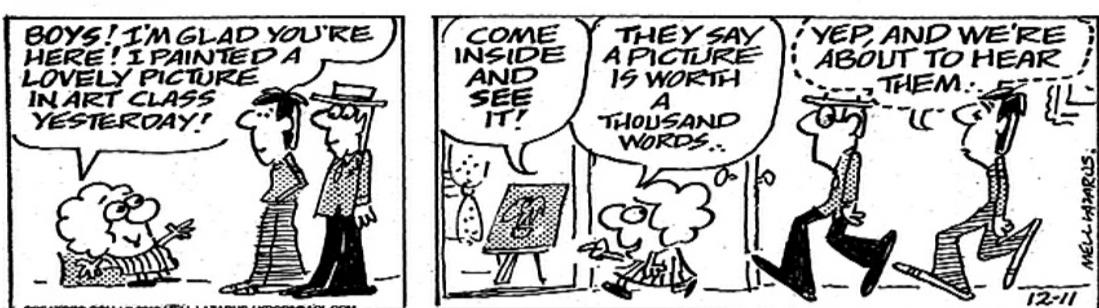
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## CO MICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBES



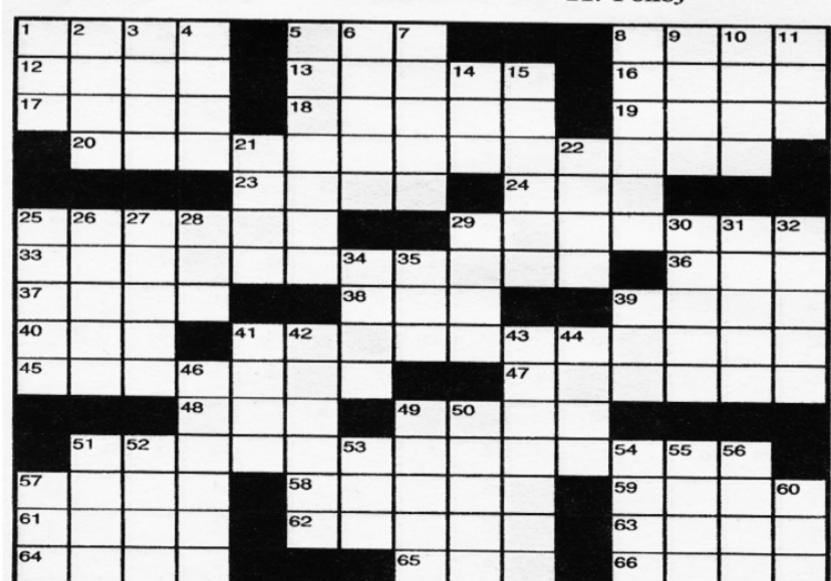
## CROSSWORD

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**ACROSS**

1. Drink without pause
5. Playbill word
8. Tread
12. Husband of a countess
13. Valerie Harper title role
16. Greet with a gesture
17. Advantage
18. Moderated
19. "Right on!"
20. "Duel in the Sun" actress
23. Newspaper paragraph
24. Literary form
25. Neighbor of Belgium
29. Supplementary story
33. Painter of flags and targets



## IDENTICAL INITIALS

**ACROSS**

36. Columnist LeShan
37. Lulu
38. Li'l Abner's son
39. Kirghiz range
40. Actor Stephen
41. She sang "Me and Bobby McGee"
45. False fang
47. Emits
48. Toothpaste-approving gp.
49. Mother —
51. Flemish artist who collaborated with Rubens
57. He defeated Henry Clay in 1844
58. Thrust
59. Perfume bottle
61. Wicked
62. Samantha of films

**DOWN**

63. Choice word
64. Actor Postlethwaite
65. O'Toole's rank: abbr.
66. Cozy home
67. Middling grade
68. Pilgrimage to Mecca
69. Importune
70. Arizona's — Canyon Dam
71. One who decides a matter
72. Irritate
73. Tribal symbol
74. George Gershwin's first hit song
75. Acquiescent
76. New Year's and Christmas
77. Pokey
78. Choice word
79. Actor Postlethwaite
80. O'Toole's rank: abbr.
81. Congenial
82. Bookie term
83. Norwegian geographical feature
84. Hindu princess
85. Org. for Laos, Cambodia, et al.
86. Nina Totenberg's network: abbr.
87. " — Come Undone" (Lamb novel)
88. Scarlet O'Hara, e.g.
89. Firefighter Red of Kuwait fame
90. Pours
91. Novelist Bowles
92. Osaka cincher
93. Real estate ad abbr.
94. Self-defense method
95. Family name in "Charlotte's Web"
96. Vibrates, to a Brit
97. Island off New Zealand
98. Block and —
99. Training rope for a horse
100. Church instrument
101. Jupiter
102. Dismounted
103. Pitcher
104. Well-matched
105. River at Aswan
106. Show cheeky insolence
107. Vim
108. Allow



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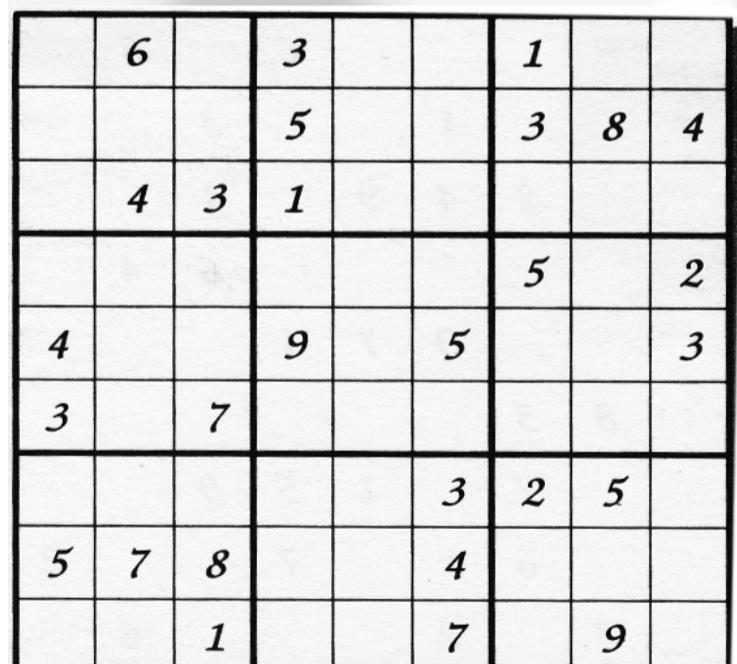
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Care Center  
Tel: 5696910

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**POLICE HDQS**  
Telephone 100

**TAXI**  
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2	3	1	6	5	7	4	9	8
5	7	4	8	1	3	2	5	6
3	5	7	4	6	5	8	7	3
4	1	2	9	6	3	1	6	5
9	8	6	7	3	1	5	4	2
8	4	3	1	2	9	7	6	5
1	2	9	5	7	6	3	8	4
7	6	5	3	4	8	1	2	9
5	1	4	9	8	2	3	7	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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## Finance

### Mass protest as Michigan curbs union rights



CHICAGO (AFP) - Thousands of protesters descended on Michigan's legislature Tuesday as Republican lawmakers passed union-curbing "right-to-work" bills in a state seen as the heart of the labor movement.

Once signed into law by Republican Governor Rick Snyder, the two measures will weaken unions by allowing public and private sector workers to get the same wages and benefits as union members even if they refuse to pay any dues.

Democratic lawmakers pleaded with their Republican colleagues not to pass the controversial bills, which they warned would unleash deep social and political strife.

State representative Douglas Geiss reminded the House chamber of the violent clashes that accompanied the struggle to form unions in the 1930s and warned that people feel just as strongly about solidarity today.

At least two people were arrested and troopers deployed pepper spray as the protest got rowdy in Lansing, state police said.

Currently, Michigan has a

"closed shop" policy that requires workers who profit from collective bargaining to pay fees but does not make it mandatory for them to become union members.

The right-to-work law creates an incentive for people not to join the union -- in what is known as the "free rider" problem -- because it allows them to benefit from collective bargaining without paying for it.

Snyder insists the law is necessary "to maintain our competitive edge" and attract new jobs, especially after neighbor-

ing Indiana became the 23rd state to enact right-to-work legislation earlier this year.

The business-backed measures had previously been restricted to states -- in the south and western center of the country -- that already had a weak union presence.

The expansion to the industrial heartland states of Indiana and Michigan -- birthplace of the United Auto Workers union -- represents a major shift.

It comes as the Rust Belt struggles to recover from major battles over efforts to radically restrict the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers in Wisconsin and Ohio after Republicans swept to power in 2010.

Boos and chants of "veto" poured into the chamber from the gallery after the House voted 58-51 to pass the first bill, which covers public workers. The second bill, which covers workers in the private sector, passed 58-52 after another impassioned debate.

### HSBC pays record \$1.92 bn to settle US laundering probe

LONDON (AFP) - Asia-focused bank HSBC said on Tuesday it would pay US authorities a record \$1.92 billion to settle allegations of money laundering that were said to have helped Mexican drug cartels, terrorists and Iran.

HSBC, which is listed in Hong Kong and London, said in a statement that it would pay the equivalent of 1.48 billion euros or £1.2 billion as part of an agreement with several US authorities including the US Department of Justice.

The London-based bank admitted to having "inadequate" controls in place, accepted responsibility for the group's past mistakes and added that it would finalise a deal soon with Britain's Financial Services Authority watchdog.

The global giant was thrown into crisis earlier this year when a US Senate report

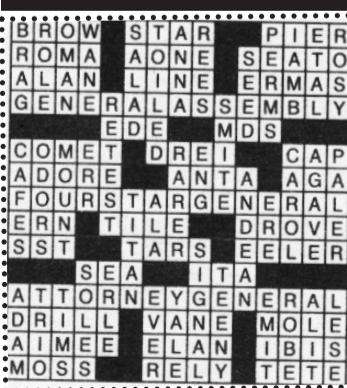
found it had allowed affiliates in Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh to move billions of dollars in suspect funds into the US without adequate controls.

US lawmakers accused the company of giving Iran, terrorists and drug dealers access to the country's financial system.

In reaction to Tuesday's record fine, HSBC's share price originally slid in London deals but ended the session up 0.56 percent at 644.80 pence. The group's Hong Kong-listed shares rose 0.31 percent to end at HK\$79.70.

Among the US Senate findings, revealed in July, was the revelation that HSBC and its US affiliate concealed more than \$16 billion in sensitive transactions to Iran, skirting US sanctions on the country for a six-year period.

### TUESDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 12/11/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>1.80</b>
Dutch Antilles	ANG	<b>98.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.20</b>
Canada	CAD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.82</b>
Britiaian	GBP	<b>2.80</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>2.91</b>
Switzerland	CHF	<b>191.71</b>	<b>192.43</b>	<b>192.37</b>
Netherlands	EUR	<b>230.59</b>	<b>232.69</b>	<b>233.74</b>
Sweden	SEK	<b>25.91</b>	<b>26.63</b>	<b>27.30</b>
Denmark	DKK	<b>30.23</b>	<b>30.95</b>	<b>31.58</b>
Norway	NOK	<b>30.67</b>	<b>31.39</b>	<b>32.10</b>
Japan	JPY	<b>214.88</b>	<b>216.84</b>	<b>218.22</b>

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

### Delta buys 49% stake in Virgin Atlantic

NEW YORK (AFP) - Delta Air Lines is buying a 49 percent stake in Virgin Atlantic Airways, forging a joint venture to expand their trans-Atlantic network, the companies announced Tuesday.

Delta, the second-biggest US airline by traffic, will invest \$360 million in the joint venture, acquiring the stake from Singapore Airlines.

British mogul Richard Branson and his Virgin Atlantic will keep the majority 51 percent stake and the airline will retain its brand and operating certificate.

Delta offers service to nearly 313 destinations in 58 countries on six continents and has a fleet of more than 700 aircraft.

Virgin Atlantic, founded in 1984 by Branson as an offshoot of the flamboyant entrepreneur's Virgin Group, is Britain's second-largest airline serving the world's major cities. Based at Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester airports, its Airbus and Boeing aircraft bear colorful names such as English Rose, Jersey Girl and Hot Lips.

The deal requires regulatory approval in both the United States and the European Union and is expected to close by the end of 2013.

Singapore Airlines paid about 600 million pounds (\$966.8 million) in 1999 to buy the 49 percent stake in Virgin Atlantic from Branson. The partnership deal was closed in

early 2000 but did not involve integration of operations.

Last week Singapore Airlines confirmed it was in talks to sell its stake with interested parties. Delta was a possible buyer. The struggling carrier has seen its financial first-half net profit fall 30 percent from last year, and warned the outlook was bleak as the eurozone debt crisis dents global business confidence.

Delta investors welcomed the deal, sending shares soaring 6.0 percent to \$10.75 in late morning trade in New York.

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## Boyfriend of Amy Winehouse 'raped woman as she slept'



She said she saw Traviss three or four times a year, but there was no indication of romance.

The court heard that Traviss and the complainant had been drinking at three bars in London on December 30 last year before going to his home.

The woman alleges she fell asleep twice and woke up to Traviss raping her.

The court heard that the woman could not find her underwear when she was about to leave Traviss' home.

Prosecutor Kate Lumsdon said Traviss told the alleged victim: "I actually want to keep them."

The court heard that in the new year the complainant travelled to New York to stay with a friend and waited about three weeks before reporting Traviss to police once she returned to London.

But Ian Winter, a defence lawyer for Traviss, said the two were equally drunk and had consensual sex. The claims were "frankly absurd", he said.

After the alleged rapes the pair texted each other about possibly meeting up the following night to go to a band's after-show party.

The trial continues.

LONDON (AFP) - The boyfriend of late Grammy-winning British singer Amy Winehouse allegedly raped a female friend while she was asleep, a British court heard Monday.

Reg Traviss, 35, a film director who was dating Winehouse when she died of alcohol poisoning at her London home in July last year, faces two counts of rape at Southwark Crown Court in London.

The prosecution claims Traviss attacked the woman, a friend, after she was so drunk she could not stand.

The complainant, who spoke from behind a screen, told the jury of six men and six women that Traviss had been "shattered and quite distressed" by Winehouse's death when she saw him six weeks before the alleged rapes.

## Royal prank station to give \$500,000 to dead nurse's family

SYDNEY (AFP) - An Australian radio station Tuesday pledged at least Aus\$500,000 (US\$523,600) to help the grieving family of a nurse duped by a royal prank phone call, after coming under sustained scrutiny over the hoax.

Nurse Jacintha Saldanha, who fielded the hoax call from Sydney station 2Day FM to London's King Edward VII Hospital, was found Friday after apparently committing suicide.

The Indian-born mother-of-two put the call through to a colleague, who divulged details of the recovery of Prince William's pregnant wife Kate from severe morning sickness.

The station initially suspended all advertising after the death but said it would resume Thursday, with all profits until the end of the year given to an "appropriate fund that will directly benefit the family of Jacintha Saldanha".

The amount donated would be at least Aus\$500,000, it said.

"We are very sorry for what has happened," Rhys Holleran, chief executive of Southern Cross Austereo which owns the station, said in a statement.

"We hope that by contributing to a memorial fund we can help to provide the Saldanha family with the support they need at this very difficult time."

In the wake of the death the company suspended all prank calls across its network and cancelled the show which ran the segment.

But the station remains under renewed pressure to fully explain how its royal prank call was cleared to air after the shattered hosts said they were not ultimately responsible.

In tearful interviews Monday, 2Day FM presenters Mel Greig and Michael Christian said that while they made the

call to the hospital, the hoax was vetted by others without their involvement.

"It's not up to us to make that decision (to air). We just record it and then it goes to the other departments to work out," said Greig in an emotional interview with Aus-

tralia's Nine Network.

Media pressure is growing in Australia for the network to fully explain how the segment made it to air, with the Sydney Daily Telegraph claiming senior management were "dodging responsibility".



NEW YORK (AFP) - Turkey has more journalists in jail than any other country, followed by Iran and China, the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said Tuesday. The number of journalists in prison reached a record high this year, as critical reporters and editors were charged with "terrorism" and other crimes against the state, the New York-based group said. Turkey had jailed at least 49 journalists as of December 1, including dozens of Kurdish reporters held on terrorism-related charges and other journalists accused of plotting against the government, the group said. The total marked an increase of 53 from the same day in 2011 and the highest since the organization began its survey in 1990. The previous record of 185 journalists imprisoned worldwide was set in 1996.



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## Aruba Waterpark- A great idea for a holiday celebration



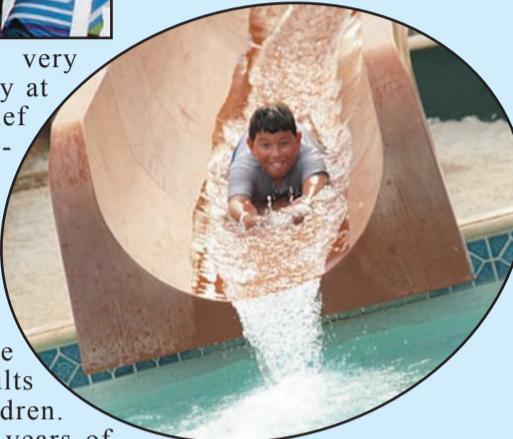
Those who have not visited the Aruba Waterpark, sitting in the shadow of the Hooiberg, are in for a pleasant surprise. The affordable and fun place has eight great slides from kiddy to killer, surrounded by breathtaking vistas.

Not only does it offer frolicking in the fresh water, but has an extremely clean, attractive restaurant and a fine chef. Island companies or families looking for something special for an end-of-the-year celebration, will find

their employees very pleased with a day at the park. The chef has devised a special holiday menu for just such events.

Aruba Waterpark is very reasonably priced at anytime of the year: \$11 for adults and \$8 for children. Those under two years of age or over 65 are free. All-inclusive packages for adults are available for only \$39 for unlimited food

and beverages, including alcoholic drinks from the bar. A \$13 ticket for children includes lunch, two drinks and ice cream. The special holiday menu includes all the classics, turkey, ham, and the local favorite, ayaca, which can be arranged with their party planner, Jeanny at 5850060



or 5945025. The park is cleverly planned to be more than just a waterpark; there is a playground for the lit-

tle ones and all ages will enjoy the ambiance. The family area has long, slower slides for youngsters and extremely shallow waters. Those who "take no prisoners" will love the deep dips of the "adult" section. It is thoughtfully laid out so the climb to the top is not a daunting flight of steep stairs, but a gradual and charming nature walk that doesn't wear you out. The park is situated on a natural outcropping over amazing views of Aruba for miles around.

Aruba Waterpark is open from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. They host a 2-for-1 Happy Hour on Fridays from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.



There is no fee for entering the park to enjoy the sunset from their cheerful dining/bar plaza, with already inexpensive drinks discounted even more.

**Never crowded during the week it is easy to find, just head for the Hooiberg. Visit their website: <http://www.arubavacation-park.com/aruba-waterpark> from more information and directions.**

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facil-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

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## Football: Messi wants titles, not more history



MADRID (AFP) - Lionel Messi insists that his record-breaking 86-goal haul in 2012 will count for nothing if Barcelona miss out on La Liga and Champions League titles.

The Argentine star wrote his name into the history books by overhauling German legend Gerd Mueller's 1972 record of 85 goals in a calendar year with a first-half double that helped his side to an important 2-1 win at Real Betis.

But the 25-year-old was happier to highlight the win more than the record as his team eye a domestic and European double.

It did not take long for Messi to equal Mueller's record with his side's first real attack on 16 minutes in Seville, making a diagonal run across the Betis defence before hitting

a left footed shot into the right hand corner.

His history-making moment came nine minutes later when he struck from almost an identical position after good play from Adriano and Andres Iniesta.

"My objective at the start of the season was to win another La Liga title," added Messi, who is also in line to win a record fourth successive Balon d'Or.

For that accolade, he will face competition from teammate Iniesta and Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo.

Barca coach Tito Vilanova looked forward to more to come from Messi, who now has 74 goals in all competitions for Barcelona this year as well as 12 for Argentina, having played 66 games in all.

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## Tennis: Djokovic, Williams crowned ITF world champions



PARIS (AFP) - Serbia's Novak Djokovic and US player Serena Williams were on Tuesday announced as this year's International Tennis Federation world champions, based on



their performances in tournaments throughout 2012.

The sport's governing body also said that US brothers Bob and Mike Bryan were men's doubles world champions for the ninth time in 10 years, while Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci of Italy were the women's equivalent.

Dutch wheelchair tennis legend Esther Vergeer won the title for the 13th year in succession after she won Paralympic singles gold for the fourth Paralympics in a row. Stephane Houdet of France

won the men's award.

Djokovic, 25, finished top of the world rankings after successfully defending his Australian Open title and reaching the finals of the

French Open and US Open. It is the second year in succession that he has been named ITF world champion.

Williams, 31, took her total number of Grand Slam titles to 15 in 2012 after winning Wimbledon and the US Open. She also finished top of the world rankings and won singles gold at the London Olympics.

Selection of world champions is based on results, with weight given to Grand Slams, the Olympics and both ITF international team competitions, the Davis Cup and Fed Cup.

## SPORTS

### Football: Fernandes admits QPR season 'a disaster'

LONDON (AFP) - Queens Park Rangers' Malaysian chairman Tony Fernandes conceded on Tuesday that his side's start to the Premier League season has been "nothing short of a disaster".

The London club are without a win in 16 matches and Saturday's 2-2 draw at Wigan Athletic saw them set a new record for the longest run of winless games at the beginning of a Premier League campaign.

Harry Redknapp's side host London rivals Fulham on Saturday and Fernandes has urged supporters to keep the faith ahead of the busy Christmas period.

"Holiday today in Malaysia. Went early xmas shopping. But all I want is 3 points. Hehehehe," he said.

"It's been nothing short of a disaster. It's not where we are. But boy we put so much effort into this. Good honest effort."

"Keep your spirits up. Laughing smiling and being positive helps. Won't leave any stone unturned to try fix this. tough as it is. Hopefully Santa gives us some early presents."

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## **Baseball: Cy Young winner Greinke joins Dodgers**

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Former Cy Young winner Zack Greinke signed a six-year, \$147 million deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers Monday that ranks as the biggest annual salary ever given to a Major League Baseball pitcher.

"I am happy to announce we have signed P Zack Greinke, the best pitcher on the Free Agent Market!" Dodgers part-owner Magic Johnson wrote on his Twitter web site.

Greinke, 29, captured the American League's Cy Young Award three years ago as a member of the Kansas City Royals. The right-hander compiled a 16-8 record and a



league best 2.16 earned run average, along with 205 strikeouts for the Royals.

Last year, Greinke had a 15-5 mark with a 3.48 ERA in 34 starts between Milwaukee and the Los Angeles Angels. In 2011, he compiled a 16-6 record with a 3.83 ERA and had 201 strikeouts in 28 games with the Brewers.

Since 2008, he has had a 70-43 record with a 3.39 ERA.

Greinke's signing comes one day after the addition of South Korean left-handed pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin, who the team inked to a \$36 million, six-year contract.

The Dodgers introduced

Ryu at a news conference.

"He definitely could come in and be a contributor to a Major League club immediately. He can reach back for just a little bit extra. He has real good mound presence," said vice president of international scouting Bob Engle.

Johnson said the Dodgers had used funds "in a disciplined way" to improve the team.

"We're not just spending crazy just to do it," he added. "We do it to help the team. We feel really good about every guy we've brought in. We're doing just what we said we were going to do."

**Dickey is not happy over Contract Standoff**



-- Reigning National League Cy Young Award winner R.A. Dickey made it clear Tuesday morning that he's not pleased with the way contract extension talks have unfolded with the Mets. In his most pointed comments on his future with the club, Dickey expressed disappointment at the slow pace of the negotiations, which have dragged on for more than two months. The Mets on Tuesday treated 100 children from a pair of Far Rockaway schools affected by Hurricane Sandy — P.S. 43 and Scholars' Academy — to a holiday party and lunch at Citi Field. Dickey was on hand along with first baseman Ike Davis and the former closer John Franco to greet the students and distribute presents. Dickey, 38, reiterated that he is not willing to deal with the distraction of negotiating a new deal during the season. He's due \$5 million next year, the last of his current contract. If an agreement isn't reached, Dickey said he would play out his final season before testing free agency, which would hasten his departure from the Mets.



PLAYA DE LAS AMERICAS (AFP) : A man wearing a Santa hat practices surf at the beach of Las Americas on the Spanish Canary Island of Tenerife on December 11, 2012.

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WEDNESDAY

## NBA: Parker shines as Spurs beat Rockets in OT



HOUSTON (AFP) - Tony Parker recorded the first triple-double of his career with 27

and 13 rebounds for San Antonio, which improved to 11-2 on the road this season.

points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists on Monday, as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Houston Rockets 134-126 in overtime.

Gary Neal nailed seven three pointers and finished with 29 points for the Spurs, who have won five consecutive games.

Manu Ginobili finished with 22 points and six assists and Danny Green had 14 points and a half dozen rebounds.

Tim Duncan had a double-double with 10 points

and Jeremy Lin tied a career high with 38 points while dishing out seven assists for Houston, who have lost three straight. Omer Asik added 21 points and 10 boards.

"It's tough obviously," said the former New York Knicks star Lin. "I am thankful that I was able to kind of get comfortable out there, but that's definitely secondary to the fact that we blew another close

game. "I had the ball to win it and didn't get a shot up and so this one definitely hurts."

Chandler Parsons had 20 points and seven boards for Houston in the loss.

The Rockets were without guard James Harden because of a right ankle injury.

Carlos Delfino blocked Duncan's jumper at the other end to force overtime.

San Antonio held a 124-122

lead with 2:57 remaining in overtime. They then went on a 6-0 run. Neal made a three-pointer and Ginobili finished off a three-point play to make it 130-122.

The first half featured five ties and five lead changes as San Antonio led 64-63 heading into the third quarter.

Houston ended the third period on a 12-3 run to take a 93-91 lead into the final quarter.

## NFL: Patriots rout Texans in elite AFC matchup

MASSACHUSETTES (AFP) - Tom Brady threw for four touchdowns and Aaron Hernandez grabbed eight passes for 58 yards as the New England Patriots routed the Houston Texans 42-14 on Monday night.

Brady was 21-for-35 with 296 yards while Hernandez also had two touchdown catches for the Patriots, who have won seven straight National Football League games.

New England improved to 10-3 and are now tied with Denver and just one game behind first-place Houston for top spot in the American Football Conference.

Brandon Lloyd caught a touchdown and also recovered a fumble in the end zone for a score while Donte Stallworth had one touchdown catch. Stallworth re-signed with the team last week.

Stevan Ridley rushed 18 times for 72 yards. He scored a touchdown in the final quarter which put the game out of reach for Houston. New England passed the 40-point mark for the fifth time this season.



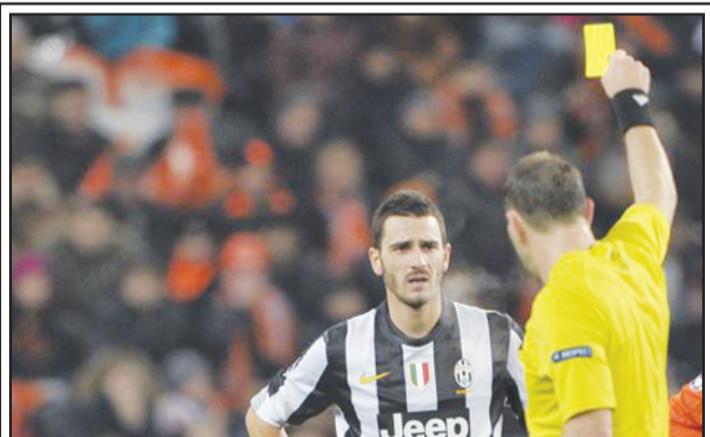
Tom Brady #12 of the New England Patriots runs the ball for a first down and is brought down by Danieal Manning #38 of the Houston Texans in the second half.

"We played a solid football game," said Patriots coach Bill Belichick. "We got good play from everybody on the line and our linebackers. The secondary also did a really good job."

Houston had their six-game winning streak snapped and suffered their first loss on the road this season. The Texans can console themselves in having already clinched a playoff spot.

Quarterback Matt Schaub was a disappointing 19-for-32 with 232 yards and an interception for the Texans. Arian Foster had 15 carries for 46 yards and a touchdown in the loss.

The Texans will host the Indianapolis Colts next Sunday. After facing Minnesota, Houston will then travel to Indianapolis for the final game of the regular season.



ROME (AFP) - Fiorentina's Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Olivera was on Tuesday banned for three matches following his stamp on a rival player's thigh in a Serie A game at the weekend. Olivera was in the dock after his attack on AS Roma's Miralem Pjanic for which he only received a yellow card at the time. The Italian Football Federation meted out a three match ban for that incident and added a further one match suspension for accumulated yellow cards picked up by Olivera. Roma won Saturday's game 4-2.



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